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			l		株式会	社日立	製作所	•	
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			(72)务	明者	菅野	周一			
(31)優先権主張番号	特願平9-163717	•	j		茨城県	日立市	大みか町七丁	目1番1号	株
(32) 優先日	平9 (1997) 6 月20日		İ		式会社	日立製	作所日立研究	所内	
(33)優先權主張国	日本(JP)		(72) 発	明者	池田	伸三			
			}				大みか町七丁		株
					式会社	日立製	作所日立研究	所内	
			(72)务	明者	安田	健			
			1				大みか町七丁		株
							作所日立研究	所内	
			(74) {	<b>过理人</b>	弁理士	小川	勝男		
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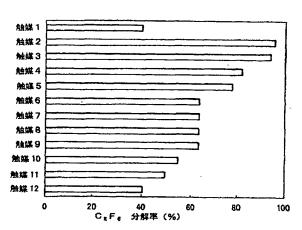
# (54) 【発明の名称】 フッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法、触媒及び分解処理装置

# (57)【要約】

【課題】 $CF_4$  ,  $C_2F_6$ などのようにハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するフッ素化合物を効率良く分解処理する

【解決手段】ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するフッ素化合物を含むガス流を、水蒸気の存在下でA1とNi,A1とZn,A1とTiからなる触媒のようにA1を含んでなる触媒と約200~800℃で接触させて、前記ガス流中のフッ素をフッ化水素に転化する。

【効果】ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するフッ素化 合物を効率良く分解処理することができる。 図 2



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#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】ハロゲンとしてフッ素を含み該フッ素を炭素、窒素及び硫黄から選ばれた元素との化合物にて含むガス流を、水蒸気の存在下で、A1を含んでなる触媒と約200~800℃の温度で接触させて前記ガス流中のフッ素化合物を加水分解してフッ化水素に転化することを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項2】請求項1において、前記フッ素化合物を含むガス流を、Alを含み、Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Si及びPtのうちから選ばれた少なくとも1つを含む触媒と触接させることを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項3】請求項2に記載の方法において、前記触媒が更にSを含むことを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項4】請求項2に記載の方法において、前記触媒 を構成する成分が各成分単独の酸化物或いはA1と他の 成分との複合酸化物の状態で含まれていることを特徴と するフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項5】請求項1に記載の方法において、前記フッ素化合物を含むガス流が $CF_4$ , $CHF_3$ , $C_2F_6$ , $C_3F_8$ , $C_4F_8$ , $C_5F_8$ よりなるフッ素化合物の少なくとも1つを含み、該フッ素化合物を $COCO_2$  の少なくとも一方及びHFとに分解することを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項6】請求項1において、前記フッ素化合物を含むガス流が $SF_6$  よりなるフッ素化合物を含み、該 $SF_6$  を $SO_2$ と $SO_3$ の少なくとも一方及びHFとに分解することを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項7】請求項1において、前記フッ素化合物を含有するガス流がNF<sub>3</sub> よりなるフッ素化合物を含み、該NF<sub>3</sub> をNOとNO<sub>2</sub>とN<sub>2</sub>Oの少なくとも一方及びHFとに分解することを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項8】ハロゲンとしてフッ素を含み該フッ素を炭素、窒素及び硫黄から選ばれた元素との化合物にて含むガス流を、水蒸気の存在下で、A1を含んでなる触媒と約200~800℃の温度で接触させて前記ガス流中のフッ素化合物を加水分解してフッ化水素に転化し、その後、該フッ化水素を含むガス流を水と接触させてフッ化水素を除去し、このフッ化水素を含む水をアルカリにより中和することを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理方法。

【請求項9】ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するハロゲン化合物を加水分解するために使用する触媒であって、A 1 酸化物を含んでなることを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理用触媒。

【請求項10】請求項9において、AIと、Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Si及びPtのうちから選ばれた少なくとも1つとからなり、A

1:M(MはZn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Siの少なくとも1つ)の原子比がAlが50~99モル%で、Mが50~1モル%であることを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理用触媒。

【請求項11】請求項10に記載の触媒において、更に Sを0.1~20重量%含むことを特徴とするフッ素含 有化合物の分解処理用触媒。

【請求項12】請求項10に記載の触媒において、前記各成分が各成分単独の酸化物或いはA1と他の成分との複合酸化物の状態で存在することを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理用触媒。

【請求項13】請求項10に記載の触媒において、A1とPもからなり、Pもを0.1~2重量%含むことを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理用触媒。

【請求項14】A1を含んでなる触媒を充填した反応器と、該反応器で処理されるフッ素と炭素、硫黄、窒素の1つとの化合物を含むガス流に水蒸気を添加する水添加器と、該反応器に充填された触媒及び該反応器に導入されるフッ素化合物含有ガス流の少なくとも一方をフッ素化合物が加水分解しうる温度まで加熱するための加熱手段とを備えたことを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理装置。

【請求項15】請求項14に記載の装置において、前記 反応器の後段に該反応器より排出されたガス流を水で洗 浄するための排ガス洗浄槽を備えたことを特徴とするフッ素含有化合物の分解処理装置。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

# [0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、 $CF_4$ ,  $C_2F_6$ ,  $SF_6$ ,  $NF_3$ などのようにハロゲンとしてフッ素を含有する化合物を低温で効率良く分解処理する方法及び触媒並びに分解処理装置に関する。

#### [0002]

【従来の技術】 $CF_4$ ,  $C_2F_6$ ,  $SF_6$ ,  $NF_3$  などのようにハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するフッ素化合物ガスは、半導体エッチング剤,半導体洗浄剤などに大量に使用されている。しかし、これらの物質は大気中に放出されると、地球の温暖化を引き起こすことが判明した

【0003】  $CF_4$  ,  $C_2F_6$  ,  $SF_6$  ,  $NF_3$  などのガスは、分子構成成分としてフッ素(F)を多く含有している。フッ素はすべての元素の中でもっとも電気陰性度が高く、化学的に非常に安定な物質を形成する。特に $CF_4$  ,  $C_2F_6$  などは分子内力が強く、反応性に乏しい物質である。この性質から、燃焼などで分解するには高温に加熱する必要があり、大量のエネルギを消費する。また、高温での分解反応は生成するフッ化水素などのガスによる装置材料の腐食速度が大きく、適切な分解処理方法がないのが現状である。

【0004】分解処理方法として、現在、提案されつつ

あるのは、高温での燃焼技術である。しかしながらこの方法では、プロパンなどの可燃ガスを使用するため、燃焼により大量のCO₂及び有害物質であるNO×が生成する。また、プロパンなどの可燃ガスを使用するため爆発の危険性がある。また、1000℃近くで燃焼するため、ハロゲン化合物の分解で生成する腐食性ガスによって炉壁が損傷し、メンテナンスの頻度が高くなり運転コストが大きくなる。従って、より低温でかつ有害物質を生成しないで分解できる技術が必要である。

【0005】ハロゲン化合物の分解触媒について、これまでに様々な特許が出願されているが、本発明の対象ガスであるハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するハロゲン化合物を分解したという報告は少ない。特開平3-66388号公報には、チタニアを含む触媒によるハロゲン化合物の加水分解について記載されているが、ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有する $CF_4$  に対しては分解性能を示さないと記述されている。また、Chem. Lett. (1989) pp. 1901-1904に記載されているように、岡崎らは、 $Fe_2O_3$  /活性炭を用いて $CFC-14(CF_4)$  を加水分解することを試みたが、分解しなかった。ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するフッ素化合物の分解については、特開平7-116466 号公報に、フッ化水素処理無機酸化物からなる分解剤を用いた例が報告されている程度である。【0006】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明の目的は、 $CF_4$ ,  $C_2F_6$ ,  $SF_6$ ,  $NF_3$ などのようにハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するフッ素化合物を低温で効率良く分解する分解処理方法、及び高い分解率と長い触媒寿命を持つ分解触媒及び分解処理装置を提供するものである。【OOO7】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者らは、 $CF_4$ ,  $C_2F_6$ ,  $SF_6$ ,  $NF_3$ などのようにハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有する化合物を低温でかつ高効率で分解が可能であり、また分解ガス中の腐食性ガスによる装置の腐食が生じにくい分解処理方法の検討を詳細に進めた結果、本発明に至った。

【0008】即ち、ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有し、該フッ素を炭素,硫黄及び窒素から選ばれた元素との化合物にて含むガス流を、水蒸気の存在下でA1を含んでなる触媒と約200~800℃で接触させ前記フッ素化合物を加水分解して、ガス流中の前記フッ素化合物をフッ化水素に転化する方法を見いだした。

【0009】対象ガスであるCF4 , C2F6等のように ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するハロゲン化合物 は、電気陰性度の高いフッ素の性質から分子内力が強 く、反応性の乏しい物質であり、酸素との反応ではほと んど分解しない。すなわちH2Oを添加して初めて高い 分解率が得られる。

【0010】本発明の対象とするフッ素化合物は、ハロ ゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するハロゲン化合物であ る。化合物の構成成分としては、フッ素、炭素、酸素、硫黄、窒素などであり、化合物の一例としては $CF_4$  、 $CHF_3$  、 $CH_2F_2$  、 $CH_3F$  、 $C_2F_6$  、 $C_2HF_6$  、 $C_2H_4F_4$  、 $C_2H_3F_3$  、 $C_2H_4F_2$  、 $C_2H_5F$  、 $C_3F_8$  、 $CH_3OCF_2CF_3$  、 $C_4F_8$  、 $C_5F_8$  、 $SF_6$  、 $NF_3$ 等である。

【0012】触媒性能として必要なのは、高い分解率と 長い触媒寿命を持つことである。これらの性能を示す触 媒を詳細に検討した結果、A 12 O3単体でも使用する原 料によって高い分解性能を持たすことができることを見 出した。

【0013】Alと、Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Pt, Co, Zr, Ce, Si のうちの少なくとも一成分とからなる触媒を用いることによって、Al を単独で使用する場合よりも分解率を高めることができる。これらの触媒中では、Al は $Al_2O_3$ 、または添加した金属成分と複合酸化物の状態で存在する。Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Si は酸化物、またはAl との複合酸化物の状態で存在する。これらの触媒では、Al: M (=Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Si の原子比がAl が50~99モル%でMが50~1モル%であることが好ましい。またはAl とPt からなる触媒においては、Pt を0.1 ~2 wt%含有することが好ましい。 Al 以外の添加成分の量を前記範囲内にすることによって高い分解率が得られる。

【0014】長い触媒寿命を得るには触媒中の $A1_2O_3$ の結晶化を抑制することが有効であり、Ni,Znなどを含有して $NiA1_2O_4$ 、 $ZnA1_2O_4$ などのように、添加した金属成分とA1とを複合酸化物化することが望ましい。触媒性能向上の方法としては、触媒中にSを添加する方法がある。Sの添加方法としては、触媒調製時に硫酸塩を使用する、あるいは硫酸を使用する、などの方法を適用できる。触媒中のSはSO $_4$  イオンの形などで存在し、触媒の酸性質を強める働きをする。Sの量は $0.1 \sim 20$ 重量%が好ましい。

【0015】本発明の分解処理方法では、 $CF_4$  ,  $C_2$   $F_6$ などのフッ素化合物を含むガス流中に酸素を添加してもよい。分解ガス中のCOなどの酸化反応に使うことができる。

【0016】フッ素化合物の分解反応の代表的な反応には次のようなものがある。

[0017]

(式2)及び(式3)の反応ではCOが生成するが、本発明の触媒はCO酸化性能も有するため、酸素が存在すればCOをCO₂にすることができる。

【0018】添加する水蒸気の量は、処理するフッ素化合物中のF数と少なくとも同等の水素分子が存在するよう調節する必要がある。これにより、化合物中のフッ素をフッ化水素に転化することができ、後処理しやすい形態にできる。

【0019】フッ素化合物を加水分解する反応温度は、約200~800℃が好ましい。炭素とフッ素と水素から少なくとも構成されるフッ素化合物を処理する場合の反応温度は、約500~800℃が好ましい。これ以上の高温で使用すると、高分解率は得られるが、触媒の劣化が速い。また、装置材料の腐食が進みやすくなる。ハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有し該フッ素を炭素、硫黄及び窒素から選ばれた元素との化合物にて含むガス流を触媒と接触させるに当たっては、ガス流中のフッ素化合物の含有量を0.1~10vol%とすることが好ましく、さらに好ましくは0.1~3vol%である。また、空間速度は、100毎時~10,000毎時が好ましく、さらに好ましくは100毎時~3,000毎時である。空間速度(h-1)は反応ガス流量(ml/h)/触媒量(ml)で求められる。

【0020】本発明によるフッ素化合物分解処理方法においては、分解生成物としてフッ化水素,二酸化炭素などが生成する。このほかに $SO_2$ , $SO_3$ 等の硫黄酸化物及びNO,NO2 等の窒素酸化物が生成する場合もある。これらの分解生成物を除去するためにアルカリ溶液で洗浄したり或いは水で洗浄することが好ましい。水で洗浄する方法は、装置の腐食を抑制しつつフッ化水素を除去する方法として好ましい。ただし、水洗浄の場合には、その後、フッ化水素を含む水をアルカリで中和することが望ましい。アルカリとしては、水酸化カルシウムや水酸化ナトリウムの水溶液,スラリ液などの一般のアルカリ試薬を使用することができる。

【0021】本発明の触媒を調製するためのA1原料としては、r-rルミナ, r-rルミナと $\delta$ -rルミナの混合物などを使用することができる。特にベーマイトをA1原料として用い、焼成により酸化物を形成したものは高い分解活性を示す。

【0022】本発明の触媒を調製するための各種金属成分の原料としては、硝酸塩、硫酸塩、アンモニウム塩、塩化物などを用いることができる。Ni原料としては硝酸ニッケルや硫酸ニッケルなどを使用することができる。これらの水和物も使用できる。Ti原料としては、硫酸チタン、チタニアゾルなどを使用することができる。

【0023】本発明の触媒の製造法は通常の触媒の製造 に用いられる沈殿法、含浸法、混練法、などいずれも使 用できる。

【0024】また、本発明における触媒は、そのまま粒状、ハニカム状などに成形して使用することができる。成形法としては、押し出し成形法、打錠成形法、転動造粒法など目的に応じ任意の方法を採用できる。また、セラミックスや金属製のハニカムや板にコーティングして使用することもできる。

【0025】本発明の処理方法を実施するために使用される反応器は、通常の固定床、移動床あるいは流動床型のものでよいが、分解生成ガスとしてHFなどの腐食性のガスが発生するので、これらの腐食性のガスによって損傷しにくい材料で反応器を構成すべきである。

【0026】本発明の処理方法を実施するために使用さ れる処理装置は、前述の反応器の他に、ガス流中のフッ 素化合物の濃度を調節する手段例えばガス流に対して窒 素あるいは空気あるいは酸素を供給する手段、ガス流と 前記触媒とを200~800℃の温度で接触させるため に少なくとも一方を加熱する手段、前記フッ素化合物を 分解するために水蒸気あるいは水を前記ガス流に対して 添加する手段、前記反応器に充填された触媒に前記ガス 流が接触することによって生成した分解生成物を水及び **/あるいはアルカリ水溶液で洗浄して該分解生成物中の** 二酸化炭素の一部とSО2, SО3等の硫黄酸化物の一部 とNO、NO。等の窒素酸化物の一部とフッ化水素とを 除去する排ガス洗浄槽とを具備する。排ガス洗浄槽の後 段に除去されなかった前記分解生成物中の一酸化炭素、 硫黄酸化物、窒素酸化物を吸着剤などによって吸着する 手段を設けることは更に好ましい。

【0027】既設の半導体工場へ本発明のフッ素化合物含有ガスの処理方法を適用することもできる。半導体工場には一般に酸成分ガスの排ガス処理装置があるため、これを利用し、本発明の触媒のみをCF。などのフッ素化合物の排ガスラインに設置し、水蒸気を添加して加熱すれば、フッ素化合物を分解処理することができる。また、本発明の装置全体あるいは一部をトラック等に積載し、廃棄されたフッ素化合物詰めボンベを貯蔵している場所へ移動して、含有されているフッ素化合物を抜き出し、直接処理することもできる。また、排ガス洗浄槽内の洗浄液を循環する循環ボンプや、排ガス中の一酸化炭素などを吸着する排ガス吸着槽を同時に搭載してもよい。また、発電機などを搭載してもよい。

【0028】本発明のフッ素化合物の分解処理方法によれば、低温でフッ素化合物を分解することができ、運転コストを低減できる。

【0029】フッ素化合物含有ガスを処理する場合、分

解して生成するHFなどの酸成分による装置材料の腐食が問題となるが、本発明によれば、使用する温度が低温であるため腐食速度が小さく、装置のメンテナンス頻度を減少できる。

【0030】本発明のフッ素化合物の分解処理方法は、フッ素化合物を分解する触媒反応工程と分解生成ガス中の酸成分を中和除去する排ガス洗浄工程とからなり、装置を小型化できる。

【0031】フッ素化合物の分解は水蒸気との反応によるため、分解処理方法としての安全性が高く、可燃ガスを使用した場合のように爆発などの危険性がない。

#### [0032]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、実施例にて本発明をさらに 詳細に説明する。本発明は、これら実施例にのみ限定さ れるものではない。

【0033】図1は、半導体エッチング工程で用いる場合のハロゲン化合物の分解処理プロセスの一例を示す。 【0034】エッチング工程では、減圧したエッチング

炉内に $CF_4$  などのフッ素化合物1を入れて、プラズマで20分間励起し、半導体と反応させる。その後チャンバ内を $N_2$ 2で置換し、ハロゲン化合物の濃度を数%に希釈して約101/minでエッチング炉内から排出している。

【0035】この排出ガスに空気3を添加しCF。など のハロゲン化合物を希釈した。このとき窒素を添加して 希釈してもよい。また、窒素と酸素を添加して希釈して もよい。この希釈ガスに、さらに水添加器4により水蒸 気を添加した反応ガス5を分解工程に送る。分解工程 は、触媒を充填した反応器を用いて行う。反応ガス中の ハロゲン化合物の濃度は約0.5~1%である。分解工 程では、反応ガス5を、空間速度1,000毎時(空間 速度(h-1)=反応ガス流量(ml/h)/触媒量(m 1)) の条件でA I を含んでなる触媒と約200~80 0℃で接触させる。この場合、反応ガスを加熱してもよ く、電気炉などにより触媒を加熱してもよい。分解ガス 6は、排ガス洗浄工程に送られる。排ガス洗浄工程で は、分解ガス6に水7がスプレーされ、分解ガス中の酸 成分が除去された排ガス8が系外に放出される。酸性ガ スを含んだ酸性排水9は、半導体工場既設の排水処理設

分解率= 1 - <u>出口のハロゲン化合物</u> × 1 0 0 (%)

【0041】以下に上記条件において試験に供した各触 媒の調製法を示す。

【0042】触媒1:市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で2時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gを300℃で0.5 時間焼成し、さらに焼成温度を700℃にあげ2時間焼成した。得られた粉末を金型に入れ、500kgf/cm²の圧力で圧縮成型した。成型品を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒はA1203からなる。

備で処理される。CF4 などのハロゲン化合物の分解率は、反応ガス5と分解ガス6をFID (Flame Ionization Detector の略称) ガスクロマトグラフ, TCD (Therm al Conductivity Detector の略称) ガスクロマトグラフを用いて分析し、入口及び出口の物質収支により求める。

【0036】図10に、本発明の処理装置の一例を示す。エッチング工程からのフッ素化合物ガスは、入口スプレー10で水がスプレーされ、ガス中のSiF4等の不純物が除去される。このガスと、空気3及びイオン交換樹脂11等で精製された水7とが予熱器12内でヒーター13により加熱されるようになっている。反応器15はA1を含む触媒14を充填したものである。又、反応器15の後段に、水のスプレー手段16を有する冷却室17及び水のスプレー手段18を有し、充填材19を含む排ガス洗浄槽20を備えている。排ガス8はブロワー21により引かれ、酸性排水9はポンプ22で引かれる。なお、排ガス洗浄槽のフッ化水素を含む水は、イオン交換処理して、純水原料として再利用することが可能である。

【 0 0 3 7 】 (実施例 1 ) 本実施例は、各種フッ素化合物分解触媒の活性を調べた例である。

【0038】純度99%以上の $C_2F_6$ ガスに空気を添加して希釈した。この希釈ガスに、さらに水蒸気を添加した。水蒸気は純水を約0.2ml/minで反応管上部へマイクロチューブポンプを用いて供給しガス化させた。反応ガス中の $C_2F_6$  濃度は約0.5%であった。この反応ガスを、電気炉により反応管外部から所定温度に加温した触媒と空間速度2,000 毎時で接触させた。

【0039】反応管は内径32mmのインコネル製の反応管で、触媒層を反応管中央に有しており、内部に外径3mmのインコネル製の熱電対保護管を有している。触媒層を通過した分解生成ガスはフッ化カルシウム溶液中にバブリングさせ、系外に放出した。C2F6の分解率は、FIDガスクロマトグラフにより、次式で求めた。

[0040]

【数1】

【0043】触媒2;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸亜鉛6水和物85.38gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕, 飾い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:2n=91:9(モル%)であっ

…(数1)

た。この触媒は、A1酸化物, Zn酸化物のほかにZn A12O4の複合酸化物を含む。

【0044】触媒3;市販のベーマイトを120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硫酸ニッケル6水和物50.99gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕,篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ni=91:9(モル%)であった。この触媒は、A1酸化物,Ni酸化物,NiAl2O4の複合酸化物及びS酸化物を含む。

【0045】触媒4;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末300gに、硝酸ニッケル6水和物125.04gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ni=91:9(モル%)であった。この触媒は、A1酸化物、Ni酸化物及びNiA1,O4の複合酸化物を含む。

【0046】触媒5;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末300gと30%硫酸チタン溶液354.4gを純水約300gを添加しながら混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約5時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ti=91:9(モル%)であった。

【0047】触媒6;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸鉄9水和物115.95gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Fe=91:9(モル%)であった。

【0048】触媒7;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、塩化第二すず水和物95.43gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕,篩い分けして0.5-1㎜ 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Sn=91:9(モル%)であった。

【0049】触媒8;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、ジニトロジアンミンPt (II) 硝酸溶液 (Pt濃度4.5wt%)22.2gを純水200㎡希釈した水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、飾い分けして0.5-1㎜ 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒はA1<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>100重量%に対してPtを0.68

重量%含んでいた。

【0050】触媒9;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末300gに、硝酸コバルト6水和物125.87gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Co=91:9(モル%)であった。

【0051】触媒10;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸ジルコニル2水和物76.70gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5−1 mm 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Zr=91:9(モル%)であった。

【0052】触媒11;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸セリウム6水和物124.62gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕,篩い分けして0.5-1㎜ 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ce=91:9(モル%)であった。

【0053】触媒12;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末300gに、20w t%シリカゾル129.19gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕,篩い分けして0.5-1㎜ 粒径として試験に供した。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Si=91:9(モル%)であった。

【0054】上記触媒1~12の反応温度700℃での 試験結果を図2に示す。A1とZnからなる触媒及びA 1とNiからなる触媒の分解活性が他にぬきんでて高 い。次いでA1とTiからなる触媒の分解活性が高い。 触媒3が触媒4よりも高活性を有するのは、Sの効果と 思われる。

【0055】(実施例2)本実施例は、実施例1の触媒4と同じA1原料、Ni原料を用い、A1とNiの組成を変化させた触媒を調製し、 $C_2F_6$ の分解活性を調べた結果である。

【0056】触媒4-1;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸ニッケル6水和物8.52gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1 mm 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ni=99:1(モル%)であった。

【0057】触媒4-2;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末300gに、硝酸ニッケル6水和物66.59gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ni=95:5(モル%)であった。

【0058】触媒4-3;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸ニッケル6水和物210.82gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕,篩い分けして0.5-1 mm 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ni=80:20(モル%)であった。

【0059】触媒4-4;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸ニッケル6水和物361.16gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕,篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ni=70:30(モル%)であった。

【0060】触媒4-5:市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸ニッケル6水和物562.1gを混ぜ、水を添加しながら混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕,篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Ni=60:40(モル%)であった。【0061】触媒4、触媒4-1から触媒4-5の活性を、 $C_2F_6$ 濃度を2%とし、供給する純水の量を約0.4ml/minとした以外は実施例1と同様の方法で調べた。試験開始6時間後の分解率を図3に示す。Ni/(Ni+A1)のモル%が20-30モル%のときに最も活性が高く、次いで5~40モル%のときに活性が高い。

【0062】(実施例3)本実施例は、実施例1の触媒2と同じA1原料、Zn原料を用い、A1とZnの組成を変化させた触媒を調製し、活性を調べたものである。【0063】触媒2-1;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸亜鉛6水和物215.68gを溶かした水溶液を添加し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分けして0.5-1mm 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は原子比でA1:Zn=80:20(モル%)であった。【0064】触媒2-2;市販のベーマイト粉末を120℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末200gに、硝酸亜鉛6水和物369.48gを溶かした水溶液を添加

し、混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾 燥し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い 分けして0.5-1 m 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は 原子比でA1: Zn=70:30(モル%)であった。 【0065】触媒2-3;市販のベーマイト粉末を12 O℃で1時間乾燥した。この乾燥粉末126.65gに、硝酸 亜鉛6水和物96.39g を溶かした水溶液を添加し、 混練した。混練後、250~300℃で約2時間乾燥 し、700℃で2時間焼成した。焼成物を粉砕、篩い分 けして0.5-1mm 粒径とした。完成後の触媒組成は原 子比でA1: Zn=85:15(モル%)であった。 【0066】触媒2,触媒2-1から触媒2-3の活性 を、 $C_2F_6$  濃度を 2% とし、供給する純水の量を約0. 4ml/minとした以外は実施例1と同様の方法で調べ た。試験開始6時間後の分解率を図4に示す。Ni/ (Ni+Al)のモル%が10-30モル%のときに最 も活性が高い。

【0067】(実施例4)本実施例は、 $CF_4$ ,  $CHF_3$ ,  $C_2F_6$ の分解を反応温度を変えて行った結果である。試験条件は、空間速度1,000 毎時とし、ハロゲン化合物を空気の代わりに窒素で希釈した以外は、実施例1と同様である。触媒は実施例2中の触媒4-3を用いた。各反応温度での試験の結果を図5に示す。A1とNiからなる触媒は、 $CHF_3$ ,  $CF_4$ に対しても高い分解活性を有する。又、これらのフッ素化合物に対しては600で程度の低い温度でも高い活性を有し、特に $CHF_3$  に対しては、反応ガス中の $CHF_3$  濃度が0.1%の場合、300ででも35%分解した。

【0068】(実施例5)本実施例は、C2F6の分解における水蒸気の影響を調べた結果である。試験条件は、空間速度1,000 毎時とした以外は、実施例1と同様である。触媒は実施例1中の触媒4を用い、反応温度は700℃とした。試験は反応開始から2時間後まで水蒸気を供給し、その後、水蒸気の供給を停止した。5時間後再び水蒸気を供給し始めた。試験の結果を図6に示す。水蒸気の添加時に分解率が高まりC2F6の分解は加水分解によることが明らかとなった。

【0069】 (実施例6) 本実施例は、 $A1 \ge Ni$  からなる触媒4-3を用いて、 $SF_6$  ,  $C_3F_8$ の分解を行った結果である。 $SF_6$  の試験条件は、純度99%以上の $SF_6$  ガスを用い、空間速度1,000毎時とし、 $SF_6$  を空気の代わりに窒素で希釈した以外は、実施例1と同様である。 $C_3F_8$ の試験条件は実施例1と同じである。試験結果を図7に示す。反応管入口の反応ガス中の $SF_6$  量とアルカリ吸収槽通過後の分解ガス中の $SF_6$  量をTCDガスクロマトグラフにより測定し、次式により分解率を求めた結果、反応温度550-700℃での $SF_6$  分解率は99%以上であった。 $C_3F_8$ の分解試験では、700℃以上の反応温度で高い反応率が得られた。【0070】

【数2】

【0071】(実施例7)本実施例は、AlとNiから なる触媒4-3を用いてNF。の分解を行った結果であ る。試験条件は、純度99%以上のNF3ガスを用いた 以外は実施例6と同様である。反応温度を700℃とし た。反応管入口の反応ガス中のNF3量とアルカリ吸収 槽通過後の分解ガス中のNF3 量をTCDガスクロマト

解率を図8に示す。400℃でも分解率99.9% が得 られた。 [0072]

グラフにより測定し、次式により分解率を求めた結果、 分解率は99%以上であった。また、700℃以下の分

【数3】

出口のNF<sub>3</sub>量 <u>。</u>×100 (%) 供給したNF<sub>a</sub>量×100 (%) 分解率=1-

…(数3)

【0073】(実施例8) A1と2nを原子比でA1: Zn=85:15 (モル%) 含む触媒を用いて、C F<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>8</sub>, CHF<sub>3</sub> の分解を行った。

【0074】CF4の分解は、純度99%以上のCF4 ガスに空気を添加して希釈し、更に水蒸気を添加し、所 定の反応温度で触媒と接触させることによって行った。 空間速度は1,000 毎時である。

【0075】反応ガス中のCF。 濃度は約0.5% であ る。水蒸気はCF。ガスの約50倍となるように流量を 調節した。

【0076】CHF。及びC4H8の分解も同様にして行 った。

【0077】図9の試験結果を示す。AlとZnからな る触媒はCHF3, CF4に対しても高い分解活性を示 す。C4Fgに対しては、700℃前後あるいはそれ以外 の温度にすれば高い分解活性を示すことが明らかにされ た。

#### [0078]

【発明の効果】本発明によれば、CF4, C2F6などの ようにハロゲンとしてフッ素のみを含有するハロゲン化 合物を効率良く分解処理することができる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施例1の処理プロセスを示す図であ

【図2】本発明の各触媒の性能を示す図である。

【図3】本発明のAI-Ni触媒のC2F6分解性能を示 す図である。

【図4】本発明のA1-Zn触媒のC2F6分解活性を示 す図である。

【図5】本発明のAl-Ni触媒のCzF6, CHF3, CF4の分解活性を示す図である。

【図6】本発明のA1-Ni触媒のC2F6分解における 水蒸気の影響を示す図である.

【図7】本発明のAI-Ni触媒のSF。, C3F8の分 解活性を示す図である。

【図8】本発明のAl-Ni触媒のNF3分解活性を示 す図である。

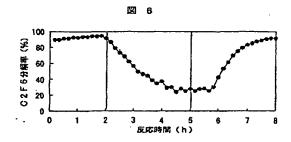
【図9】本発明のAl-Zn触媒のCF4, C4F8, C HF<sub>3</sub>の分解活性を示す図である。

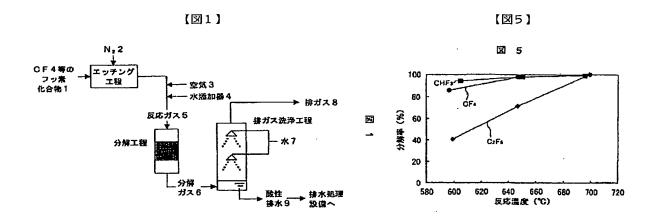
【図10】本発明の一実施例による分解処理装置の概略 構成図である。

#### 【符号の説明】

1…CF₄ などのフッ素化合物、2…N₂、3…空気、 4…水添加器、5…反応ガス、6…分解ガス、7…水、 8…排ガス、9…酸性排水、10…入口スプレー、11 …イオン交換樹脂、12…予熱器、13…ヒーター、1 4…触媒、15…反応器、16,18…スプレー手段、 17…冷却室、19…充填材、20…排ガス洗浄槽、2 1…ブロワー、22…ポンプ。

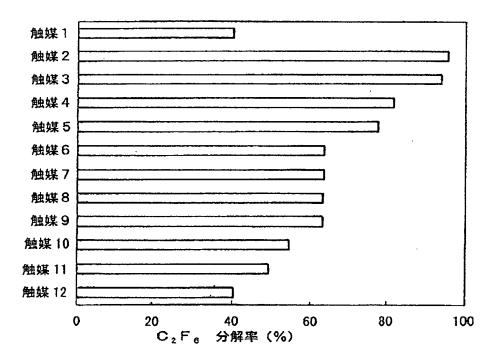
【図6】

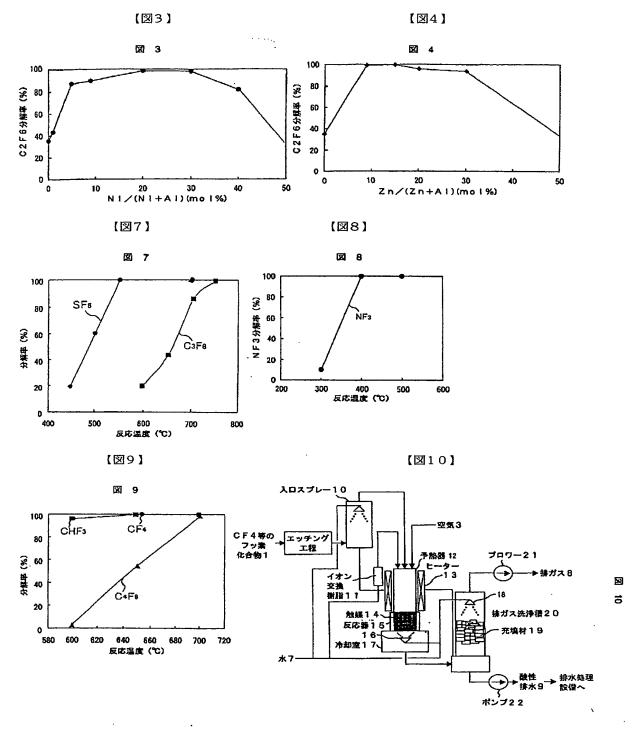




【図2】

図 2





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(72)発明者	山下 寿生		(72) 発明者	新 玉田 慎	
	茨城県日立市大みか町七丁目1番1号	株		茨城県日立市幸町三丁目1番1号 株式	会
	式会社日立製作所日立研究所内			社日立製作所日立工場内	
(72)発明者	小豆畑 茂		(72) 発明者	<b>新</b> 入江 一芳	
	茨城県日立市大みか町七丁目1番1号	株		茨城県日立市幸町三丁目1番1号 株式	会
	式会社日立製作所日立研究所内			社日立製作所日立工場内	

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(71) Applicant: HITACHI LTD

(72) Inventor:

SUGANO SHUICHI

IKEDA SHINZO YASUDA TAKESHI

YAMASHITA HISAO AZUHATA SHIGERU TAMADA SHIN

IRIE KAZUYOSHI

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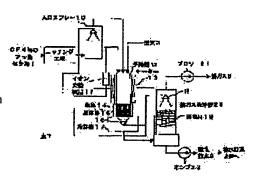
(54) DECOMPOSITION TREATMENT METHOD OF FLUORINE-CONTAINING COMPOUND, CATALYST AND DECOMPOSITION TREATMENT DEVICE

> KANNO EXHIBIT 1006 Rossin v. Kanno Contested Case 105,402

# (57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To efficiently decompose and treat fluorine compounds containing only fluorine as halogen such as CF4 and C2F6.

SOLUTION: In the method for decomposing and treating fluorine-containing compounds, gas flow consisting of fluorine compounds containing only fluorine as halogen is brought into contact with an Al-containing catalyst such as a catalyst consisting of Al and Ni, Al and Zn, Al and Ti at about 200-800° C in the existence of steam and fluorine contained in the gas flow and fluorine contained in gas flow is converted into hydrogen fluoride. Further, the device for decomposing and treating the fluorine-containing compounds is equipped with a reactor 15 filled with the catalyst 14 containing Al, a water adding vessel in which steam is added to gas flow containing a compound consisting of fluorine and one of carbon, sulfur and nitrogen treated in the reactor 15 and a heating means consisting of a



preheater 12 and a heater 13 by which one hand of the catalyst 14 filled in the reactor 15 and the gas flow containing fluorine compounds 1 introduced into the reactor 15 is heated at such temperature that the fluorine compounds 1 are hydrolyzed.

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## DECLARATION

- I, Kazuhiro ISHII , a national of Japan,
  c/o Asamura Patent Office of 331-340, New Ohtemachi
  Building, 2-1, Ohtemachi-2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
  do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare:
- THAT I am well acquainted with the Japanese language and English language, and
- 2) THAT the attached is a full, true, accurate and faithful translation into the English language made by me of JP-A-11-70322.

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001, of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed this 24th day of February , 2006

Kazuhiro ISHII

KANNO EXHIBIT 1014 Rossin v. Kanno Contested Case 105,402

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Tokugan Hei 10-1	72543	HITACHI, LTD.					
		6, Kandasurugadai 4-chome,					
		Chiyoda	-ku, Tok	yo, Japan			
(22) Filing Date:		(72) Inventor: Shuichi KANNO					
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		Laboratory, HITACHI, LTD.,					
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		Hitachi-shi, Ibaraki, Ja (72)Inventor: Ken YASUDA					
		• •	achi Res				
			<del>-</del> '	ACHI, LTD.,			
			ikacho 7	-cnome, raki, Japan.			
		(74) Agent		• •			
	•	<del>-</del>	Attorney	OGNWA			
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# (54) [Title of the Invention]

PROCESS FOR DECOMPOSITION TREATING OF FLUORINE-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS, CATALYSTS AND DECOMPOSITION TREATING APPARATUS

# (57) [Abstract]

[Problem] To provide decomposition treatment of fluorine compounds containing only fluorine as a halogen such as  $CF_4$ .  $C_2F_6$ , etc. with high efficiency. [Solution]

A gas stream containing fluorine compounds containing only fluorine as a halogen is contacted with a catalyst containing Al such as those containing Al and Ni, Al and Zn, and Al and Ti, in the presence of stream at about 200° - 800°C, to convert the fluorine in the gas stream to hydrogen fluoride.
[Advantages]

Fluorine compounds containing only fluorine as a halogen can be subjected to decomposition treatment with high efficiency.

Fig. 2

[Claims]

[Claim 1]

A process for decomposition treating a fluorine-containing compound, which comprises contacting a gas stream containing as a halogen fluorine, which forms a compound in combination with an element selected from carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur, with a catalyst containing Al in the presence of water vapor at a temperature of about 200 to 800°C to convert the fluorine in the gas stream to hydrogen fluoride by hydrolysis.

[Claim 2]

The process according to Claim 1, wherein the gas stream containing the fluorine compound is contacted

15 with a catalyst containing Al and at least one member selected from the group consisting of Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Si and P.

[Claim 3]

The process according to Claim 2, wherein the 20 catalyst further contains S.

[Claim 4]

The process according to Claim 2, wherein the catalyst contains constituting components in the form of an oxide of each component singly or as a composite oxide of Al and other component.

[Claim 5]

The process according to Claim 1, wherein the gas stream containing the fluorine compound contains at Least one fluorine compound selected from  $CF_4$ ,  $CHF_3$ ,  $C_2F_6$ ,  $C_3F_8$ ,  $C_4F_8$ , and  $C_5F_8$ , and said fluorine compound is decomposed to at least one of CO and  $CO_2$ , and HF [Claim 6]

The process according to Claim 1, wherein the gas stream containing the fluorine compound contains a 10 fluorine compound comprising  $SF_6$ , and said  $SF_6$  is decomposed to at least one of  $SO_2$  and  $SO_3$ , and HF. [Claim 7]

The process according to Claim 1, wherein the gas stream containing the fluorine compound contains a fluorine compound comprising  $NF_3$ , and said  $NF_3$  is decomposed to at least one of NO and  $NO_2$ , and HF. [Claim 8]

A process for decomposition treating a fluorine-containing compound, which comprises contacting a gas stream containing as a halogen fluorine, which forms a compound in combination with an element selected from carbon, nitrogen and sulfur, with a catalyst containing Al in the presence of water vapor at a temperature of about 200 to 800°C to convert the fluorine compound in the gas stream to hydrogen fluoride by hydrolysis, followed by removal of the hydrogen

fluoride by contacting the gas stream containing the hydrogen fluoride with water, and neutralization of the water containing the hydrogen fluoride with an alkali.
[Claim 9]

- A catalyst for decomposition treating a fluorine-containing compound, characterized by using for hydrolysis of a halogen compound containing only fluorine as a halogen and containing an Al oxide [Claim 10]
- The catalyst according to Claim 9, wherein the catalyst comprises Al and at least one member selected from Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Si and Pt, the atomic ratio of Al:M (wherein M is at least one member selected from Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, and Si)

  15 being 50 to 99% by mole of Al and 50 to 1% by mole of M. [Claim 11]

The catalyst according to Claim 10, which further contains 0.1 to 20% by weight of S. [Claim 12]

20 The catalyst according to Claim 10, wherein each component is present in the form of an oxide of each component singly or a composite oxide of Al and other component.

[Claim 13]

The catalyst according to Claim 10, wherein the catalyst comprises Al and Pt, Pt being contained

in an amount of 0.1 to 2% by weight.
[Claim 14]

An apparatus for decomposition treatment of a fluorine-containing compound, which comprises a reactor packed with a catalyst containing Al; a water adding device for adding water vapor to a gas stream containing a compound comprising fluorine to be treated in the reactor and one of carbon, sulfur and nitrogen; and a heating device for heating at least one of the catalyst packed in the reactor and the gas stream containing fluorine compound to be introduced into the reactor to a temperature at which the fluorine compound is capable of being hydrolyzed.

[Claim 15]

20

The apparatus according to Claim 14, which further comprises an exhaust gas washing tank for washing the gas stream exhausted from the reactor with water at a later stage of the reactor.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Technical Field Pertinent to the Invention]

The present invention relates to a process for decomposition treatment of compounds having fluorine as a halogen such as  $CF_4$ ,  $C_2F_6$ ,  $SF_6$ ,  $NF_3$ , and the like effectively at a low temperature, a catalyst therefore

and a decomposition treatment apparatus.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

Fluorine compound gases containing only

5 fluorine as a halogen such as CF<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, NF<sub>3</sub>, and the
like are used in a large amount as semiconductor
etchers, semiconductor cleaners and the like. However,
it was found that when these substances are discharged
into the atmosphere, global warming took place.

10 [0003]

Gases such as CF<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, NF<sub>3</sub>, etc. have fluorine (F) in a large amount as a molecular constituting element. The fluorine is the highest in electronegativity among all the elements and forms

15 chemically very stable substances. Particularly, CF<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> and the like are strong in intramolecuar force and substances poor in reactivity. From these properties, a high temperature is necessary for decomposition such as combustion and a large amount of energy is consumed

20 therefor. Further, the decomposition reaction at high temperatures produces gases such as hydrogen fluoride, etc. which are large in corrosion rate of apparatus materials. It is thus in the current situations that no appropriate processes for such decomposition treatment

25 are not available yet.

[0004]

As the decomposition treatment processes, there is proposing a combustion technology at a high temperature. But, according to this process, since a flammable gas such as propane or the like is used, a

5 large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and NOx which is a harmful substance are produced by combustion. Further, since the flammable gas such as propane is used, there is a danger of explosion. Further, due to combustion near 1000°C, a corrosive gas is produced by the decomposition of the

10 halogen compound and damages the furnace wall, resulting in enhancing the maintenance frequency and enlarging the operation cost. Therefore, a technology which can decompose at lower temperatures without producing harmful substances is necessary.

15 [0005]

As to the catalysts for decomposing halogen compounds, there have been filed various patent applications. But, there are a few reports as to the decomposition of halogen compounds containing only fluorine as a halogen which gas is aimed at in the present invention. According to JP-A-3-66388, there is a description as to the hydrolysis of halogen compounds using a catalyst containing titania, but no decomposition function is shown for CF4 which contains only fluorine as a halogen according to said invention. In addition, as disclosed in Chem. Lett. (1989) pp.

1901-1904, Okazaki et al have tried to hydrolyze CFC14(CF<sub>4</sub>) using Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/active carbon, but no decomposition took place. As to the decomposition of fluorine compounds having only fluorine as a halogen, only JP-A5 7-116466 reports an example using a decomposition agent comprising hydrogen fluoride treatment inorganic oxides [0006]

[Problem to be solved by the Invention]

An object of the present invention is to

10 provide a process for efficient decomposition treatment
of fluorine compounds containing only fluorine as a
halogen such as CF<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, NF<sub>3</sub>, etc. at low
temperatures, a catalyst for decomposition having a high
decomposition rate and a long catalyst life, and an

15 apparatus for such a decomposition treatment.

[0007]

[Means for Solving Problem]

The present inventors have studied decomposition treatment processes wherein halogen

20 compounds containing only fluorine as a halogen such as CF<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, NF<sub>3</sub>, can be decomposed at low temperatures with high efficiency and an apparatus is hardly corroded with corrosive gases in the decomposed gases, and as a result, the present invention is attained.

25 [0008]

That is, it was found that when a gas stream

containing as a halogen only fluorine, which forms a compound in combination with an element selected from carbon, sulfur and nitrogen, is contacted with a catalyst containing Al in the presence of water vapor at about 200 to 800°C to hydrolyze the fluorine compound, the fluorine compound in the gas stream is converted to hydrogen fluoride.

[0009]

The halogen compound containing only fluorine

10 as a halogen such as CF<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> which are the gas of the
object, is strong in the intramolecular force due to
properties of fluorine having high electronegativity,
and a substance poor in reactivity, so that it is hardly
decomposed by the reaction with oxygen. That is, by

15 adding H<sub>2</sub>O, it is possible to obtain a high decomposition
rate for the first time.

[0010]

The halogen compound which is the object of the present invention is a halogen compound containing only fluorine as a halogen. Constituting components include fluorine, carbon, oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, etc. Examples of the compound include CF<sub>4</sub>, CHF<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>F, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>HF<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F, C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>8</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>5</sub>F<sub>8</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, NF<sub>3</sub>, etc.

25 [0011]

In the decomposition treatment process of

fluorine compounds according to the present invention, there is used a catalyst containing Al. The Al in the catalyst is used in the form of an oxide. It is possible to use Al alone, but it is also possible to 5 use in combination with at least one component selected from Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Pt, Co, Zr, Ce and Si. Further, when S is added to these catalysts, decomposition activity of the catalysts can be enhanced.

[0012]

Necessary things for catalyst performances are 10 to have a high decomposition rate and a long catalyst lifetime. As a result of detailed studies of catalysts showing these performances, it was found that even Al2O3 single body can have a high decomposition performance 15 depending on raw materials.

[0013]

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By using a catalyst containing Al and at least one component selected from Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Pt, Co, Zr, Ce, and Si, the decomposition rate can be enhanced compared with the case of using Al alone. catalysts, Al is present in the form of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or a composite oxide of the added metal component(s). Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, and Si are present in the form of oxides or composite oxides with Al. In these 25 catalysts, the atomic ratio of Al : M (M = at least one of Zn, Ni, Ti, Fe, Sn, Co, Zr, Ce, Si) is preferably 50

to 99% by mole of Al and 50 to 1% by mole of M.

Further, in the catalyst comprising Al and Pt,

Pt is preferably contained in an amount of 0.1 to 2% by

weight. By making the amount of adding components other

than Al in the range mentioned above, a high

decomposition rate can be obtained.

[0014]

In order to obtain a long catalyst lifetime, it is effective to suppress crystallization of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the catalyst. It is also desirable to form a composite oxide of Al and an added metal component such as Ni, Zn, to form NiAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and the like. As a method for improving the catalyst performance, there is a method of adding S into the catalyst. As a method of adding S, there can be employed a method of using a sulfate, or using sulfuric acid, or the like at the time of preparing the catalyst. The S in the catalyst is present in the form of SO<sub>4</sub> ion, etc. to function for strengthening the acid properties of the catalyst. The amount of S is preferably from 0.1 to 20% by weight.

[0015]

According to the decomposition treatment process of the present invention, it is possible to add oxygen into the gas stream containing the fluorine compound such as CF<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, etc. It is also possible to use the oxidation reaction of CO and the like in the

decomposed gas.

[0016]

Typical reactions among decomposition reactions of the fluorine compounds are as follows.

5 [0017]

$$CF_4 + 2H_2O \rightarrow CO_2 + 4HF$$
 .... (1)

$$C_2F_6 + 3H_2O \rightarrow CO + CO_2 + 6HF$$
 .... (2)

$$CHF_3 + H_2O \rightarrow CO + 3HF$$
 .... (3)

Reactions according to reaction equations (2)

10 and (3) can produce CO. The present catalysts also have an ability to oxidize CO, and thus CO can be further oxidized to  $CO_2$  in the presence of oxygen.

[0018]

The amount of water vapor to be added is to be

adjusted so that hydrogen molecules are present in an

amount at least equal to the number of F among the

fluorine compound to be treated. By this, the fluorine

in the compound can be converted to hydrogen fluoride,

which is easy for aftertreatment.

20 [0019]

The reaction temperature used for hydrolysis of the fluorine compound is preferably about 200 to 800°C. Particularly as to the fluorine compounds constituted by at least carbon, fluorine and hydrogen, about 500 to 800°C is preferable. When higher temperatures than the above-mentioned are used, higher

decomposition rates may be obtained, but the catalysts are degraded rapidly. Further, the corrosion rate of the apparatus materials becomes large suddenly. In contacting of the gas stream containing only fluorine as 5 a halogen and a compound formed from the fluorine and an element selected from carbon, sulfur and nitrogen, with a catalyst, the content of the fluorine compound in the gas stream is preferably 0.1 to 10% by volume, particularly preferably 0.1 to 3% by volume, and the space velocity is preferably 100 to 10,000 h<sup>-1</sup>, particularly preferably 100 to 3,000 h<sup>-1</sup>. Space velocity (h<sup>-1</sup>) is defined by reaction gas flow rate (ml/h)/catalyst volume (ml).

[0020]

In the decomposition treatment process of fluorine compounds according to the present invention, hydrogen fluoride, carbon dioxide, etc. are produced as decomposed products. In addition, there can be produced sulfur oxides such as SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>, etc. and nitrogen oxides 20 such as NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, etc. In order to remove these decomposed products, it is preferable to use cleaning with an alkali solution or cleaning with water. The method of cleaning with water is preferable as a method for removing hydrogen fluoride while suppressing the 25 corrosion of the apparatus. But, in the case of water cleaning, it is desirable to neutralize the water

containing hydrogen fluoride with an alkali in a later stage. As the alkali, it is possible to use conventional alkali reagents such as an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, a slurry thereof, etc.

[0021]

As the Al raw material for preparing the catalyst of the present invention, there can be used  $\gamma$ -alumina, a mixture of  $\gamma$ -alumina and  $\delta$ -alumina, and the like. When boehmite is used as the Al raw material, followed by firing to form an oxide, a high decomposition activity is shown.

[0022]

As the raw materials for various metal

15 components for preparing the catalysts of the present invention, there can be used nitrates, sulfates, ammonium salts, chlorides and the like. As the raw material for Ni, there can be used nickel nitrate, and nickel sulfate. These hydrates can also be used. As

20 the raw material for Ti, there can be used titanium sulfate, titania sol, and the like.

[0023]

The catalyst of the present invention can be prepared by any of ordinary procedures for preparing catalysts, such as a precipitation method, an impregnation method, a kneading method, etc.

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[0024]

The catalyst of the present invention can be used as such or upon molding into a granular form, a honeycomb form, etc. by a desired molding procedure such as extrusion molding, tabletting, tumbling granulation, etc., depending on purposes. It is also possible to use as a coating on ceramic or metallic honeycombs or plates.

[0025]

The reactor used for practicing the treating process of the present invention includes an ordinary fixed bed, moving bed or fluidized bed reactor. Since corrosive gases such as HF and the like are produced as decomposition product gases, the reactor should be constructed by materials hardly damaged by these corrosive gases.

[0026]

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The treating apparatus used for practicing the treating process of the present invention comprises the 20 reactor mentioned above, a means for adjusting the concentration of the fluorine compound in the gas stream, for example, a means for supplying nitrogen, or air or oxygen to the gas stream, a means for heating at least one of the gas stream and the catalyst in order to contact them at a temperature of 200 to 800°C, a means for adding water vapor or water to the gas stream in

order to decompose the fluorine compound, and an exhaust gas washing tank wherein decomposition products produced by contacting the gas stream with the catalyst packed in the reactor are washed with water and/or an alkali

5 aqueous solution for neutralizing a part of carbon dioxide, a part of sulfur oxides such as SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>, and the like, a part of nitrogen oxides such as NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and the like, and hydrogen fluoride in the decomposition products. It is further preferable to provide a means

10 for adsorption with an adsorber to adsorb carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides in the decomposition products not neutralized by alkali washing in the later stage of the exhaust gas washing tank.

[0027]

15 It is possible to apply the treating process for fluorine compound-containing gases of the present invention to already constructed semiconductor factories. Since a semiconductor factory generally has an exhaust gas treating apparatus for acid component 20 gases, it is possible to use such an apparatus while placing only the catalyst of the present invention in the exhaust gas line for fluorine compounds such as CF4, and adding water vapor followed by heating to conduct decomposition treatment of fluorine compounds. Further, 25 the whole or part of the apparatus of the present

invention can be mounted on a truck or the like and

moved to a place wherein wasted fluorine compounds are stored in a bomb to directly treat the fluorine compounds by drawing out them for treatment. Further, it is possible to mount a circulatory pump for circulating the washing solution in the exhaust gas washing tank, and an exhaust gas adsorption tank for adsorbing carbon monoxide, etc. in the exhaust gas at the same time. In addition, it is possible to mount an electric generator and the like.

10 [0028]

According to the decomposition treatment process for fluorine compounds of the present invention, fluorine compounds can be decomposed at lower temperatures, so that the operation cost can be reduced.

15 [0029]

When fluorine compound-containing gases are treated, there arises a problem of corrosion of apparatus materials by acid components produced by decomposition such as HF and the like. According to the present invention, since the temperature used is low, the corrosion rate is small. Thus, the maintenance frequency of the apparatus can be reduced.

[0030]

The decomposition treatment process of

25 fluorine compounds of the present invention comprises a
catalytic reaction step for decomposing the fluorine

compounds and an exhaust gas washing step for removing neutralized acid components in the decomposition product gases, so that the apparatus can be minimized.

[0031]

The decomposition of fluorine compounds are conducted by the reaction with water vapor, so that safety as the decomposition treatment process is high and there is no dangers such as explosion in the case of using flammable gases.

10 [0032]

[Mode for Carrying out the Invention]

Hereinafter, the present invention is explained in detail referring to Examples. The present invention is not limited to these Examples.

15 [0033]

Fig. 1 shows an example of a decomposition treatment process of halogen compounds when used in a semiconductor etching step.

[0034]

In the etching step, a fluorine compound 1 such as CF4 is supplied to an etching furnace under reduced pressure, excited by plasma for 20 minutes to react with a semiconductor. Then, the chamber is replaced by  $N_2$  2 to dilute the concentration of the halogen compound to several percents, followed by discharge from the etching furnace at about 10 1./min.

[0035]

To the discharged gas, air 3 is added to dilute the halogen compound such as CF4. At that time, nitrogen can be added for dilution. Further, the 5 dilution can be done by adding nitrogen and oxygen. this diluted gas, water vapor is added by a water adding device 4 to give a reaction gas 5, which is sent to a The decomposition step is decomposition step. conducted in a reactor packed with a catalyst. The 10 concentration of halogen compound in the reaction gas is about 0.5 to 1%. In the decomposition step, the reaction gas 5 is contacted with a catalyst containing Al at about 200 to 800°C under the condition of space velocity of 1000 per hour [space velocity (h-1) = 15 reaction gas flow rate (ml/h) / catalyst volume (ml)]. In this case, the reaction gas can be heated, and the catalyst can be heated by an electric furnace and the like. The decomposed gas 6 is led to the exhaust gas washing step. In the exhaust gas washing step, the 20 decomposition gas 6 is sprayed with water 7 to remove acid components in the decomposition gas and the resulting exhaust gas 8 is discharged to system outside. The acidic waste water 9 containing the acidic gas is treated in a waste water treating apparatus provided in 25 the semiconductor plant. The decomposition rate of the halogen compound such as CF4 is obtained from the

analysis data of the reaction gas 5 and the decomposed gas 6 using FID (flame ionization detector) gas chromatograph and TCD (thermal conductivity detector) gas chromatograph, and material balance at the inlet and the outlet.

[0036]

Fig. 10 shows an example of the treating apparatus of the present invention. The fluorine compound gas from the etching step is sprayed with water 10 from an inlet spray 10 to remove impurities such as SiF4, etc. in the gas. The resulting gas, air 3 and water 7 purified with an ion exchange resin 11, etc. are to be heated by a heater 13 in a preheater 12. The reactor 15 is packed with a catalyst 14 containing Al. Further, in 15 a later stage of the reactor 15, there are provided a cooling chamber 17 having a water spraying means 16 and an exhaust gas washing tank 20 having a water spraying means 18 and including a filler 19. The exhaust gas 18 is drawn by a blower 21, and the acidic waste water 9 is 20 drawn by a pump 22. The water containing hydrogen fluoride in the exhaust gas washing tank is ion exchange treated for making it possible to use again as a pure water material.

[0037]

25 [Example 1]

In this Example, activities of various

fluorine compound decomposition catalysts are examined. [0038]

A C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> gas having a purity of 99% or more was diluted with air, and the diluted gas was further

5 admixed with steam. Steam was prepared by feeding pure water to a reactor tube from the top at a flow rate of about 0.2 ml/min. by a microtube pump to gasify the pure water. The reaction gas had a C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> concentration of about 0.5%, and was brought into contact with a catalyst lo heated to a predetermined temperature by external heating of the reactor tube in an electric oven at a space velocity of 2,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.

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The reactor tube was an Inconel reactor tube

15 having an inner diameter of 32 mm and had a catalyst bed
fixed at the center of the reactor tube. An Inconel
thermowell for a thermocouple, 3 mm in diameter, was
inserted into the catalyst bed. Decomposition product
gas from the catalyst bed was bubbled through an aqueous

20 calcium fluoride solution and discharged to the system
outside. The decomposition rate of C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> was obtained by
the following equation using FID gas chromatograph and
TCD gas chromatograph:

[0040]

25 [Expression 1]

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JP-A-11-70322

Halogen compound at outlet

Decomposition = 1 - ----- x 100 (%) rate

Halogen compound fed

[0041]

The following catalysts were prepared for the test under the foregoing conditions:

[0042]

5 Catalyst 1:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for 2 hours. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were fired at 300°C for 0.5 hour and at 700°C for 2 hours. The resulting powers were placed in a mold and compression molded under a pressure of 500 kgf/cm². The molded article was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The catalyst after completion consists of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. [0043]

15 Catalyst 2:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. To 200 g of the resulting dried powders, an aqueous solution dissolving 85.38 g of zinc nitrate hexahydrate was added and 20 kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm

and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Zn=91: 9 (mole %). This catalyst contains a composite oxide of Zn and  $Al_2O_3$  in addition to Al oxide and Zn oxide.

5 [0044]

#### Catalyst 3:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 50.99 g of nickel sulfate hexahydrate and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Ni = 91 : 9 (mole %). This catalyst contains Al oxide, Ni oxide, a Composite oxide of NiAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and S oxide.

[0045]

# 20 Catalyst 4:

Boehmite powders of commercially available
were dried at 120°C for one hour. 300 g of the resulting
dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of
125.04 g of nickel nitrate hexahydrate and the mixture
was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was
dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at

700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Ni = 91 : 9

5 (mole %). This catalyst contains Al oxide, Ni oxide and NiAl2O4 composite oxide.

[0046]

Catalyst 5:

Boehmite powders of commercially available

10 were dried at 120°C for one hour. 300 g of the resulting dried powders were kneaded with 354.4 g of an aqueous 30% titanium sulfate solution while adding about 300 g of pure water thereto. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 5 hours and 15 then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al: Ti = 91 : 9 (mole %).

20 [0047]

Catalyst 6:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 115.95 g of iron nitrate nonahydrate and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried

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at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm, and tested. The resulting grain composition was in an atomic ratio of Al : Fe = 91 : 9 (mole %).

[0048]

Catalyst 7:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 95.43 g of tin chloride hydrate and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Sn = 91 : 9 (mole %).

[0049]

20 Catalyst 8:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution prepared by diluting 22.2 g of a dinitrodiamino Pt(II) nitric acid solution (Pt concentration: 4.5 wt.%) with 200 ml of pure water, and the mixture was kneaded.

After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst contained 0.68% by weight of Pt based on 100% by weight of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

[0050]

Catalyst 9:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 300 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 125.87 g of cobalt nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition was in an atomic ratio of Al : Co = 91 : 9 (mole %)

20 [0051]

Catalyst 10:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 76.70 g of zirconyl nitrate dihydrate, and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was

dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for 5 catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Zr = 91 : 9 (mole %).

[0052]

Catalyst 11:

Boehmite powders of commercially available

10 were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 124.62 g of cerium nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 15 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Ce = 91 : 9 (mole %).

20 [0053]

Catalyst 12:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 300 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 129.19 g of 20 wt.% silica sol, and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried

at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm and tested. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Si = 91 : 9 (mole %).

[0054]

Test results of the foregoing Catalysts 1-12 at a reaction temperature of  $700^{\circ}\text{C}$  are shown in Fig. 2.

10 The catalyst comprising Al and Zn and the catalyst comprising Al and Ni show particularly high decomposition activity compared with other catalysts.

Then, the catalyst comprising Al and Ti shows the next high decomposition activity. Reasons for Catalyst 3

15 having higher activity than Catalyst 4 seems to be the

[0055]

[Example 2]

effect of S.

In this Example, the composition of Al and Ni 20 in Catalyst 4 in Example 1 was changed to give catalysts, and decomposition activities of  $C_2F_6$  are examined and shown.

[0056]

Catalyst 4-1:

25 Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting

dried powder were admixed with an aqueous solution of 8.52 g of nickel nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Ni = 99 : 1 (mole %).

[0057]

## 10 Catalyst 4-2:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 300 g of the resulting powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 66.59 g of nickel nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture was 15 kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1

mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in

20 an atomic ratio of Al : Ni = 95 : 5 (mole %).

[0058]

Catalyst 4-3:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 210.82 g of nickel nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture

was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 5 mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Ni = 80 : 20 (mole %).

[0059]

Catalyst 4-4:

Boehmite powders of commercially available

10 were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 361.16 g of nickel nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 15 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Ni = 70 : 30 (mole %).

20 Catalyst 4-5:

[0060]

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with 562.1 g of nickel nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture was kneaded while adding water thereto. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and

then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Ni = 60 : 40 (mole %).

[0061]

5

Activities of the above-mentioned Catalyst 4 and 4-1 to 4-5 were examined in the same manner as in Example 1 except for changing the concentration of C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>

10 to 2% and the supplying amount of pure water to about 0.4 ml/min. Decomposition rates after 6 hours from the beginning of the test are shown in Fig. 3. When the mole% of Ni/(Ni + Al) being 20 to 30 mole%, the activity is the highest, and when 5 to 40 mole%, the activity is next high.

[0062]

[Example 3]

In this Example, the composition of Al an Zn in Catalyst 2 in Example 1 was changed to prepare 20 various catalyst and activities thereof were examined.

[0063]

Catalyst 2-1:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 215.68 g of zinc nitrate hexahydrate and the mixture was

kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and then fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Zn = 80 : 20 (mole %).

[0064]

Catalyst 2-2:

Boehmite powders of commercially available

10 were dried at 120°C for one hour. 200 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with 369.48 g of zinc nitrate hexahydrate and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and fired at 700°C for 2 hours. The

15 fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5 - 1 mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al:

Zn = 70 : 30 (mole %).

[0065]

20 Catalyst 2-3:

Boehmite powders of commercially available were dried at 120°C for one hour. 126.65 g of the resulting dried powders were admixed with an aqueous solution of 96.39 g of zinc nitrate hexahydrate, and the mixture was kneaded. After kneading, the kneaded mixture was dried at 250° - 300°C for about 2 hours and

then fired at  $700^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 hours. The fired product was pulverized and sieved to obtain grains having grain sizes of 0.5-1 mm. The resulting grain composition for catalyst was in an atomic ratio of Al : Zn = 85:15 (mole %).

[0066]

Activities of the above-mentioned Catalysts 2, 2-1 to 2-3 were examined in the same manner as in Example 1 except for changing the concentration of C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>

10 to 2% and the supplying amount of pure water to about 0.4 ml/min. The decomposition rates after 6 hours from the beginning of the test are shown in Fig. 4. When the mole% of Ni/(Ni + Al) is 10 to 30 mole%, the activity is the highest.

15 [0067]

[Example 4]

This Example shows the results of decomposition of CF<sub>4</sub>, CHF<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> while changing the reaction temperatures. The test conditions are the same 20 as those of Example 1 except for changing the space velocity to 1000 per hour, and using nitrogen in place of air for diluting the halogen compounds. The catalyst used was Catalyst 4-3 in Example 2. Test results for each reaction temperature are shown in Fig. 5. The catalyst comprising Al and Ni has a high decomposition rate even for CHF<sub>3</sub> and CF<sub>4</sub>. Further, it has a high

activity for these fluorine compounds even at a low temperature of about 600°C. Particularly in the case of CHF<sub>3</sub>, even if the CHF3 concentration in the reaction gas is 0.1%, the decomposition was 35% at 300°C.

5 [0068]

[Example 5]

This Example shows the results of examination of influences of steam upon  $C_2F_6$  decomposition. The test conditions are the same as those in Example 1 except for changing the space velocity to 1,000 h<sup>-1</sup>. The catalyst 4 in Example 1 was used at a reaction temperature of 700°. The test was carried out by supplying steam for 2 hours from the start of test, then interrupting supply of steam. After 5 hours, steam was supplied again. Test results are shown in Fig. 6. Since the decomposition rate was enhanced at the time of vapor addition, it was found clear that the decomposition of  $C_2F_6$  was caused by hydrolysis.

[0069]

20 [Example 6]

This Example shows the results of decomposition of  $SF_6$  and  $C_3F_8$  using the Catalyst 4-3 comprising Al and Ni. The test conditions for  $SF_6$  are the same as those of Example 1 except for using a  $SF_6$  25 gas having a purity of 99% or more, changing the space velocity to 1,000  $h^{-1}$  and using nitrogen in place of air

for diluting SF<sub>6</sub>. The test conditions for C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>8</sub> are the same as those of Example 1. The test results are shown in Fig. 7. The amount of SF<sub>6</sub> in the reaction gas at the reaction tube inlet and the amount of SF<sub>6</sub> in the

5 decomposed gas after passing the alkali absorption tank were measured by TCD gas chromatograph and the decomposition rate was calculated by the following equation. It was found that the decomposition rate of SF<sub>6</sub> at a reaction temperature of 550 to 700°C was 99% or more. In the decomposition test of C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>8</sub>, a high reaction rate was obtained at the reaction temperature of 700°C or higher.

[0070]

[Expression 2]

Amount of SF<sub>6</sub> at the outlet Decomposition rate = 1 -  $\frac{1}{100}$  Amount of fed SF<sub>6</sub>

[0071]

[Example 7]

This Example shows the results of
decomposition of NF<sub>3</sub> using Catalyst 4-3 comprising Al and
Ni. The test conditions are the same as those of
Example 6 except for using a NF<sub>3</sub> gas having a purity of
99% or more. Reaction temperature was 700°C. The amount
of NF<sub>3</sub> in the reaction gas at the inlet of the reactor
tube and the amount of NF<sub>3</sub> in the decomposition gas after
passing the alkali absorption tank were determined by
TCD gas chromatograph and the decomposition rate was
calculated according to the following equation. It was
found that the decomposition rate was 99% or more.
Further, the decomposition rate at 700°C or lower are
shown in Fig. 8. The decomposition rate of 99.9% was
obtained even at 400°C.

[0072]

[Expression 3]

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Amount of NF}_3 \text{ at} \\ \text{the outlet} \\ \text{Decomposition rate} = ----- \times 100 \text{ (%)} \\ \text{Amount of fed NF}_3 \end{array}$ 

[0073]

[Example 8]

Using a catalyst containing Al and Ni at an atomic ratio of Al : Zn = 85 : 15 (mole%), decomposition of  $CF_4$ ,  $C_4F_8$  and  $CHF_3$  was conducted.

5 [0074]

The decomposition of CF<sub>4</sub> was conducted by diluting CF<sub>4</sub> gas having a purity of 99% or more with air, adding vapor thereto, and contacting with the catalyst at predetermined reaction temperatures. The space velocity was 1,000 per hour.

[0075]

The  $CF_4$  concentration in the reaction gas was about 0.5%. The flow amount of vapor was adjusted so as to be about 50 times as large as that of the gas.

15 [0076]

The decomposition of CHF3 and  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_8$  was conducted in the same manner as mentioned above.

[0077]

Fig. 9 shows the test results. The catalyst comprising Al and Zn shows high decomposition activity even for CHF $_3$  and CF $_4$ . As to C $_4$ F $_8$ , it was made clear that high decomposition rate was shown when the temperature was made about 700°C or higher.

[0078]

25 [Effects of the Invention]

According to the present invention, halogen

compounds having only fluorine as a halogen such as  $CF_4$ ,  $C_2F_6$ , etc. can be subjected to decomposition treatment with high efficiency.

5 [Brief Description of the Drawings]
[Fig. 1]

A drawing showing a treatment process of Example 1 of the present invention.

[Fig. 2]

A drawing showing performances of each catalyst of the present invention.

[Fig. 3]

A drawing showing decomposition performances of Al-Ni catalyst of the present invention for  $C_2F_6$ .

15 [Fig. 4]

A drawing showing decomposition activity of Al-Zn catalyst of the present invention for  $C_2F_6$ . [Fig. 5]

A drawing showing decomposition activity of

20 Al-Ni catalyst of the present invention for  $C_2F_6$ ,  $CHF_3$  and  $CF_4$ .

[Fig. 6]

A drawing showing influences of steam on the decomposition of  $C_2F_6$  using Al-Ni catalyst of the present

25 invention.

[Fig. 7]

A drawing showing decomposition activity of Al-Ni catalyst of the present invention for SF6, and  $C_3F_8\,.$ 

[Fig. 8]

A drawing showing decomposition activity of Al-Ni catalyst of the present invention for  $NF_3$ . [Fig. 9]

A drawing showing decomposition activity of Al-Zn catalyst of the present invention for  $CF_4$ ,  $C_4F_8$  and  $CHF_3$ .

[Fig. 10]

Outline of structural drawing of one example of the decomposition treating apparatus of the present invention.

## [Description of Reference Numerals]

1 ... fluorine compound such as CF4, 2 ... N2,
3 ... air, 4 ... water adding device, 5 ... reaction
gas, 6 ...decomposed gas, 7 ... water, 8 ... exhaust
gas, 9 ... acidic waste water, 10 ... inlet spray,
5 11 ... ion exchange resin, 12 ... preheater, 13 ...
heater, 14 ... catalyst, 15 ... reactor, 16, 18 ...
spray means, 17 ... cooling chamber, 19 ... filler,
20 ... exhaust gas washing tank, 21 ... blower, 22 ...
pump.

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- (72) Inventor: Hisao YAMASHITA c/o Hitachi Research Laboratory, HITACHI, LTD., 1-1, Omikacho 7-chome, Hitachi-shi, Ibaraki, Japan. Japan.
- (72) Inventor: Shigeru AZUHATA c/o Hitachi Research Laboratory, HITACHI, LTD., 1-1, Omikacho 7-chome, Hitachi-shi, Ibaraki, Japan. Japan.
- (72) Inventor: Shin TAMADA c/o Hitachi Works, HITACHI, LTD., 1-1, Saiwaicho 3-chome, Hitachi-shi, Ibaraki,
- (72)Inventor: Kazuyoshi IRIE
  c/o Hitachi Works,
  HITACHI, LTD.,
  1-1, Saiwaicho 3-chome,
  Hitachi-shi, Ibaraki,